



## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED Spring 2024

The School of Communication both welcomes and encourages undergraduate student involvement in the research programs of faculty and graduate students by serving as undergraduate research assistants. Research assistants play a vital role in the research of any university, by helping with data collection and analysis, computer programming, library research, and writing of research reports for presentation and conferences and for publication. Undergraduates in the social sciences with research experience (especially in the form of an undergraduate thesis) and who meet other entry requirements are often highly sought out by graduate schools, including the graduate program in the School of Communication at The Ohio State University. Furthermore, people with research skills are also sought out in industry and the corporate world. Thus, serving as a research assistant can give you a competitive advantage in your quest for furthering your education in the social sciences or obtaining employment upon graduation. If you need a letter of recommendation from a faculty member for graduate school or a job, you will get a much stronger letter if you work in a faculty member's research group. Because there is no such thing as too much experience, we especially encourage students to get involved early in their education, *at least* a year before graduation. It sounds a lot better for a faculty member to say that that you worked in their lab for two, three, or even four years than only a semester.

The School of Communication is currently recruiting undergraduate research assistants for ongoing research projects described below. You may earn 'independent study' course credit by working on these projects or get involved on a voluntary basis—details are to be discussed with the faculty/project contacts. **If you see a project description that interests you, please contact the faculty member directly (unless otherwise indicated in project description).** Most projects fill on a first-come basis until full.

The application deadline for all positions is  
January 12, 2024.

## Spring 2024 School of Communication Projects

Project title: Meta-Analysis Coder

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Brad J. Bushman

Contact information: Dr. Brad J. Bushman

Email: [bushman.20@osu.edu](mailto:bushman.20@osu.edu)

Total number of research assistants sought: 2

Project location: Remote/online

*Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours*

Preferred qualifications: Experience with Excel, organized, close attention to detail, strong reading comprehension.

Project description: This project involves coding research studies for meta-analytic reviews. The term meta-analysis literally means “analysis of analyses.” It is a quantitative literature review that combines the statistical analyses (e.g., correlations) from different studies conducted on the same topic. With French colleagues, I am conducting a meta-analytic review on the link between alcohol and aggression. This opportunity can be taken on a voluntary basis or for credit in Communication (COMM 4998).

Remote or in-person: Remote/online, emails and weekly Zoom meetings.

Format of remote interaction: There will be weekly Zoom meetings to go through the information collected and any questions you might have.

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Project title: How People Use Generative Artificial Intelligence for Communication

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Bingjie Liu

Contact information: Dr. Bingjie Liu

Email: [liu.11321@osu.edu](mailto:liu.11321@osu.edu)

Total number of research assistants sought: 2

Project location: Remote/online

*Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours*

Preferred qualifications: Experience with Excel or other spreadsheet tools, organized, close attention to detail, strong reading comprehension.

Project description: This project concerns how people use generative artificial intelligence (GAI) for communication. GAI, such as ChatGPT, refers to a type of technology that can automatically generate messages upon users’ requests. This project explores the contexts when people decide to use GAI and when they reject to use it, as well as how they use it. Currently, I need help with reading and categorizing participants’ open-ended responses and conversations. This opportunity can be taken voluntarily or for credit in Communication (COMM 4998).

Remote or in-person: Remote

Format of remote interaction: Emails and weekly Zoom meetings with the faculty supervisor

Project title: The Functions of Entertainment in Everyday Life

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Sara Grady

Contact information/Email: [grady.367@osu.edu](mailto:grady.367@osu.edu)

Total number of research assistants sought: 1-5

Project location: Remote/Online

*Minimum commitment per week: 5 hours*

Preferred qualifications:

- Attention to detail
- Enthusiasm, motivation and curiosity
- Ability to use Microsoft word & excel well
- Ability to work unsupervised and meet deadlines

Project description: People spend so much of their free time on entertainment. My team researches how people chose the entertainment they use and why. Mostly, this is exploring the *kinds* of movies, games, books people turn to in different situations, and what they hope to get from it. We're currently recruiting undergraduates to do some research and development work. Training will be provided, but expect that we'd meet every week or two, and an RA would have specific tasks to do on their computer/at home between meetings. Usually this involves looking up specific media to gather information about it and/or sorting and labelling data (about what people are watching and why) for later analysis.

Remote or in-person: Mostly remote

Format of remote interaction: Zoom & email

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Project title: Social support and self-disclosure in online support communities

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Jingbo Meng

Contact information: Jiaqi Qin

Email: [qin.661@osu.edu](mailto:qin.661@osu.edu)

Total number of research assistants sought: 2-4

Project location: Remote

*Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours*

Preferred qualifications: Attention to detail, strong reading and comprehension skills, ability to complete tasks timely and with high quality.

Project description: This project focuses on how community members disclose stressful experiences and provide social support in online support communities. RAs will assist with the annotation of the posts and replies from several subreddits on Reddit (e.g., r/parenting, r/careeradvice, and r/depression). The task requires RAs to read and code each post/reply into certain categories based on the coding guides. The coding task is mainly about the content characteristics of the posts and replies (e.g., whether the reply involves any form of social support or self-disclosure). We will provide detailed explanations of the coding guides and go through examples to ensure consistent coding among all RAs. After reaching the acceptable agreement, coders will work independently on completing assigned tasks. Students can choose to enroll in Comm 4998 Research course credit or get involved on a voluntary basis.

Remote or in-person: Remote

Format of remote interaction: We will have weekly or bi-weekly Zoom meeting to discuss coding details and progress.

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Project title: Multiplayer Video Game Study

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Teresa Lynch

Contact information: Matthew Erxleben

Email: [erxleben.2@osu.edu](mailto:erxleben.2@osu.edu)

Total number of research assistants sought: 1-2

Project location: In person, Columbus campus

*Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours*

Preferred qualifications: Good communication skills, organized, close attention to detail, experience playing video games (preferred but not required).

Project description: This project explores the effects of playing multiplayer video games. Research assistants will be responsible for setting up the research space before study sessions, running multiple participants at the same time, and cleaning the lab after completion. This opportunity can be taken voluntarily or for credit in Communication (COMM 4998).

Remote or in-person: In-person, weekly meetings.

Format of remote interaction: Email

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Project title: Message Presentation Study

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Hillary Shulman

Contact information: contact Elizabeth Riggs

Email: [riggs.160@osu.edu](mailto:riggs.160@osu.edu)

Total number of research assistants sought: 2

Project location: Journalism Building Rm 233

*Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours*

Preferred qualifications: Organized and detail-oriented, readiness to learn new software.

Project description: This study examines how differing presentations of a health message impact memory and persuasion.

Remote or in-person: In person